

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 STR-05 COME-00

EB-08 SP-02 SSO-00 /043 W

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O 020816Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3275

S E C R E T TOKYO 18572

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, JA, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSAL FOR GOJ TEAM VISIT

REF: STATE 286540

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PASSED TO OWADA BY DCM, OWADA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR WHAT HE TERMED A GOOD MESSAGE. DCM REVIEWED PARAS. 3-5 AS INSTRUCTED.

2. EC MIN FOLLOWED UP BY CONVEYING SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 3,4 AND 5 WITH MOTONO OF MFA FOR TRANSMISSION TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

3. WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS CONTINUE TO STRESS TO US THE PRIME MINISTER'S FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO MINISTRIES TO COME UP WITH MAXIMUM RESPONSES FOR PLANNED DEC 6 MEETING OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE PUTTING DATE OF USHIBA VISIT BACK TO DEC 12 WILL DILUTE QUALITY OF RESPONSE.

4. WE BELIEVE GOJ IS AWARE THAT THERE IS DANGER IN GOING TO WASHINGTON WITH FIXED PROPOSALS WITH NO FLEXIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THEY HAVE STRESSED THAT USHIBA IS
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HAVING DISCUSSIONS AT POLITICAL LEVEL AND THAT HE IS NOT LEADING NEGOTIATING TEAM. AT SAME TIME WASHINGTON MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT IF WE MAKE POINT OF "CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS" OTHER MINISTRIES HERE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO HOLD BACK AND NOT MAKE MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS PM FUKUDA IS URGING THEM TO MAKE FOR FEAR THAT THEY MAY BE PRESSED TO DO MORE.

WE ARE PLAYING A BALANCING GAME AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN WHAT IS SAID IN PRESS AND WHAT IS ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE.

5. WE BELIEVE USHIBA WILL BRING US WHAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO COME UP WITH IN TERMS OF MEETING OUR REQUIREMENTS. HE WILL BE PREPARED TO ARGUE HIS CASE. IF WE ARE NOT PERSUADED, WE SHOULD TELL HIM SO AND THE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO FORCE THE JAPANESE TO MAKE MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS AND STILL INSIST THAT THEIR PROPOSALS MUST BE OPEN-ENDED.

6. WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF WHAT WE ARE CALLING "THE PACKAGE" WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY BY GOJ AS PART OF NORMAL PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET THAT SHOULD STIMULATE GROWTH ALONG LINES WE DESIRE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AND DISCUSSED AS PART OF ONGOING PROCEDURES. OTHER ITEMS OF FORTHCOMING FY 1978 BUDGET WILL SIMILARLY BE DEALT WITH AS DOMESTIC TIMING DICTATES.

7. I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE PROCEEDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THAT WE HAVE BASICALLY ACCOMPLISHED OUR MAJOR TASK-- THAT OF CONVINCING THE GOJ THAT
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WE ARE DEALING WITH A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THAT PM FUKUDA WAS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE A TOTAL REVISION OF HIS CABINET IS AN INDICATION OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO POINT JAPAN IN A NEW DIRECTION. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEAL CALMLY AND CONSISTENTLY WITH THIS ISSUE, FIXING ON OUR GOALS AND NOT BEING DISTRACTED BY TEMPORARY DISTORTIONS IN PRESS HANDLING OF THE EXCELLENT AND STEADY WORK THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCING REAL RESULTS.

MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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